then Ministry of Works and Housing (now Urban Development) granted recognition at the All-India level to the All-India CPWD Mazdoor Union. The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Urban Development. That Ministry took a meeting on 7-12-1986 with the unions in which the unions have sought clarifications regarding the Policy of Recognition. The matter is being further discussed with the unions by the Ministry of Urban Development and action is being taken to expedite verification.

Bonded labour employed for Rajasthan Canal Project

2304. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commission appointed by the Supreme Court to go into the allegation of existence of bonded labour in the Ganganagar district in Rajasthan has indicated the administration of Rajasthan Canal Project for employing bonded labour through contractors; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the contractors and the officers of the administration responsible therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) According to the report received from the Government of Rajasthan, the Commissioner appointed by the Supreme Court in Writ petition filed by Bandhua Mukti Morcha regarding alleged existence of bonded labour in Rajasthan Canal Project, had identified 29 bonded labourers including children in the brick kiln situated at Annopgarh and Gharana in Sriganganagar district (owned by M/s. Verma Construction Co., which is in the approved list of the administration of the Rajasthan Canal Project). These 29 bonded labourers were releasee by the District Administration, Sriganganagar on 19-9-19855. They belonged to the following districts.

1.	Bhiwani (Haryana)	14
2.	Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan)	11
3.	Nagaur (Rajasthan)	4
	TOTAL:	29

After release, these 29 persons were sent to their native places and were provided immediate assistance of Rs. 2257.30. After these bonded labourers reached their respective districts in Rajasthan, rehabilitation projects were p repared for them and the same have been sanctioned by the State Level Screening Committee on 4-1-1986 for Nagaur and on 15-1-1986 for Jhunjhunu. The Rehabilitation projects for these bonded labourers are reported to the quite comprehensive and they envisage provision of rehabilitation assistance as well as subsidy for housing. Implementation of these rehabilitation projects is reported to be in progress. The Haryana Government has been requested by the Central Government to ensure early rehabilitation of the 14 bonded labourers sent to Bhiwani District of the State.

The Government of Rajasthan has further reported that a case against the keeper of the bonded labourers has been registered on 22-9-1985 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and investigation is under progress. The State Government is also reported to have instructed the concerned officers to strictly enforce the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act and ensure other welfare measures and see that there is no exploitation of the labourers at the project.